

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 215871

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SUBJECT: CATARACT SURGICAL TOOL

SCIATT WILLIAMS FROM NASA BARNES

1. FOLLOWING CABLE SENT BY NASA TO ISRO/DHAWAN:

QUOTE: FOLLOWING IS SUPPLIED AS BACKGROUND INFORMATION CONCERNING  
OCT/JAN TRAVEL OF NASA PERSONNEL IN CONNECTION WITH RETINA  
FOUNDATION/MADURAI MEDICAL COLLEGE DEMONSTRATION OF CATARACT  
SURGICAL TOOL DEVELOPED FROM NASA AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY

QUOTE 1. DR WILLIAM J MCGANNON, CLEVELAND OHIO OPHTHAL MOLOGIST  
IN PRIVATE PRACTICE, APPROACHED NASA'S LEWIS RESEARCH CENTER  
SEVERAL YEARS AGO REGARDING USE OF AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY TO  
DEVELOP AN IMPROVED CATARACT SURGICAL TOOL. TOGETHER WITH RETINA  
FOUNDATION, NASA AND DR MCGANNON HAVE NOW DEVELOPED AN AIR-TURBINE  
DIVEN CUTTER-PUMP DEVICE WHICH GREATLY SIMPLIFIES CATARACT  
OPERATIONS RESULTING IN A MUCH SMALLER INCISION, LESS DANGER OF  
COMPLICATIONS AND REDUCTION IN OPERATING TIME TO ABOUT THREE  
MINUTES FOR COMPLETE REMOVAL OF CATARACT LENS.

QUOTE2. TOOL HAS BEEN USED IN LABORATORY EXPERIMENTATION WITH  
SEVERAL HUNDRED ANIMAL EYES AND EXCISED HUMAN EYE LENSES AT  
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PAGE 02 STATE 215871

LEWIS AND RETINA FOUNDATION AND WILL BE USED IN SEVERAL CLINICAL

TESTS IN US THIS FALL.

QUOTE 3. BOTHE RETINA FOUNDATION, WHICH USES FACILITIES OF MASSACHUSETTE EYE AND EAR INFIRMARY IN BOSTON, AND ITS PRESIDENT DR SCHEPENS ARE INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN AND RESPECTED. DURING VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL MEETING HE DISCUSSED THIS PROJECT WITH COLLEAGUES INCLUDING DR G VENKATASWAMY, PROFESSOR OF OPHTHAMALOGY MADURAI MEDICAL COLLEGE AND OPHTHALMIC SURGEON GOVERNMENT ERSKINE HOSPITAL. AS A RESULT, AND AFTER OTHER DISCUSSIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE DR VENKATASWAMY HAS INVITED RETINA FOUNDATION TO CONDUCT A DEMONSTRATION AT MADURAI IN JAN 1975 FOLLOWING ITS DEMONSTRATION THROUGH SIGNIFICANT CLINICAL USE IN THE US.

QUOTE 4. IN CONNECTION WITH JANUARY DEMONSTRATION RETINA FOUNDATION PLANS TECHNICAL SURVEY TRIP IN OCTOBER IN INDIA. TEAM WILL INCLUDE DR MCGANNON, DR HSIAO-SU LIU OF RETINA FOUNDATION AND MR. EDWARD BAEHR PROJECT ENGINEER AT LEWIS RESEARCH CENTER. TRIP WILL VERIFY AVAILABILITY OF ALL FACILITIES NECESSARY FOR JANUARY DEMONSTRATION OF SURGICAL TOOL.

QUOTE 6. ALL ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRIP AND DEMONSTRATIONS ARE BEING MADE BY RETINA AND MADURAI. WHILE NASA PARTICIPATION LIMITED TO EQUIPMENT SUPPORT TO INSURE THAT SURGICAL TOOL AND ALL SUPPORTING EQUIPMENT PERFORMS AS INTENDED, WE WANTED TO INFORM ISRO IN ADVANCE SHOULD QUESTIONS ARISE.

ARNOLD W. FRUTKIN  
NASA END QUOTE  
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